

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 20 being the independent claims. Claims 1-2, 6, and 12 are amended by the foregoing amendment. Claims 11 and 16 are sought to be canceled by the foregoing amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,990,418 to Blanc (hereinafter "Blanc"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection below.

Claims 2, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, and 16-19 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 11, and therefore should now be allowable since claim 11 was indicated to have allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been canceled. Further, claims 4-5, and 7-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore should be now be allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim, in addition to their own patentable features.

Claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form, so as to include the features of claim 1, and therefore should now be allowable. Claim 3 depends directly

from claim 2, and therefore should be allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim, in addition to its own patentable features.

Claim 6 has been amended to be in independent form, so as to include the features of claim 1, and therefore should now be allowable.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the features of claim 16, and therefore should now be allowable since claim 16 was indicated to have allowable subject matter. Claim 16 has been canceled. Further, claims 14-15, and 17-19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12, and therefore should be allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim, in addition to their own patentable features.

Based on the discussion above, Applicants request that the rejections and objections to claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17-19, be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

***Allowed Claim***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 20 in the Office Action.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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